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General and complete disarmament

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

IV. Information received from the European Union

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[11 September 2015]

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons destabilizes societies and hinders economic and social development. The European Union, in its strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 16 December 2005, provided the response needed to overcome threats posed by the accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. The strategy underlines the need for consistent security and development policies that fully exploit all means available to the European Union at the multilateral and regional levels. In that context, and as part of its Common Foreign and Security Policy, the European Union is providing financial support to specific activities aimed at tackling security threats relating to uncontrolled small arms and light weapons and ammunition at the national, regional and global levels, including in South-East Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe area, Libya, the Sahel region and Central America, as well as through the iTrace project. The European Union is also assisting partner countries to respond to their short-term and long-term needs.

The Arms Trade Treaty is aimed at developing more responsible regulation of the arms trade in order to prevent the movement of arms into the wrong hands, thereby reducing human suffering and tangibly contributing to international peace,

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** The information contained in the present addendum was received after the issuance of the main report.

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security and stability. The poor regulation of the global trade in conventional arms and ammunition fuels conflict, poverty and human rights abuses. The European Union and its member States have long supported the Treaty process and have dedicated significant diplomatic and financial resources to raising awareness about the Treaty. The European Union has put into place a specific and ambitious programme to support the Treaty's implementation by third countries. That programme assists States in strengthening their arms transfer systems in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty.

The European Union and its member States have, for many years, played a leading role in arms export control, both regionally and internationally. The European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports established a comprehensive mechanism and laid down several criteria, including the preservation of peace, security and stability and respect for international humanitarian law. Mines and other explosive remnants of war impede sustainable peace and the long-term development of the societies affected by them. Since 1992, the European Union has been actively involved in supporting demining programmes and related technology research and development, as well as providing assistance to mine victims. The European Union has been offering assistance to third countries in their efforts to comply with the goals set out in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, namely, to eliminate mines and resolve the related economic and social problems caused by those weapons. The European Union has also remained committed to its zero-victim target by implementing projects that address immediate threats to populations affected by mines and promoting the implementation of the Treaty. One of the main tools has been the assistance programme in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014. The European Union participated actively as an observer at the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Maputo in June 2014, at which ambitious documents for the next review cycle were adopted. Since 2010 alone, the European Union and its member States have contributed more than €0.5 billion to mine action projects across the globe. That sum represents more than one third of the world's financial assistance for that period for projects in heavily affected countries and areas of the world, making the European Union, together with its member States, the largest donor in the field. Those significant contributions are fuelling reconstruction and economic and social development.